

ToR 2017

ToR for Dóchas Policy Working Group 2017

The Dóchas Policy Working Group is a group of members who have come together to network, learn and share their resources and expertise. They also expect to engage with key stakeholders, namely Irish Aid and DFATD in order to promote dialogue and influence matters relating to the policy priorities of Dóchas and its members and to promote Ireland's leadership on the world stage.

1. Membership

Membership is open to any member of Dóchas who wishes to actively engage in shaping policy. Membership is based on active participation (see Section 6).

2. Areas of Focus

Areas of mutual interest to member organisations, including:

Enhance Sector Engagement and Government Relationships: to facilitate dialogue, collaboration and action on policies of mutual concern with Irish Aid and across DFATD. Those policy areas will be determined by the group but could include ODA, Financing for Development, Policy Coherence for Development, Review of One World, One Future, OECD DAC and Humanitarian Policy

Advocacy: to exploit opportunities for strategic and focused lobbying and engagement with the Irish government around key policies areas.

Facilitate Good practice, coordination and mutual learning: to utilise experience and expertise of members to build capacity, share learning and innovation, with respect to advocacy and policy change.

Identify appropriate policy areas where Dóchas' would lead and/or facilitate: such as engagement at EU level with CONCORD and Coalition 2030.

Seek partnerships: with external platforms, networks and organisations in order to draw on external points of view.

3. Methodology

The principal form of contact will be through e-mail. Four face to face meetings will be scheduled per year with the option for ad-hoc meetings in response to specific situations. In case of interest by certain members in specific activities, sub-working groups may be established in areas of shared interest, such sub-working groups will be responsible for establishing their own administrative and communication requirements.

4. Financing

As the group is a virtual group it has limited needs for financing. Dóchas can make funding available for initiatives developed by the group, if appropriate. ToR 2017

5. Coordination

A Chair will be elected from among the group members on an annual basis by a straight majority vote. A quorum of four agencies needs to be present to allow meetings and voting to go ahead. A proxy vote can be submitted to the Chair in advance of the meeting by email. A Deputy Chair will be elected to support and work with the Chair.

6. Commitment

Active participation is required to be a member of this group. This requires a representative of an agency to be present at 50% of meetings. This group is open to members who hold an advocacy and/or policy function within their organisation and recognizes that attendance may change depending on the subject matter being discussed.

7. Link with Dóchas

Dóchas will where possible provide office space for meetings. The Policy WG will ensure that its work compliments the overall priorities and strategic interests of Dóchas. While one of the objectives of the group is to support the development of policy for Dóchas, the articulation of that policy is the role of the Chairperson, CEO and the Board of Dóchas. Dóchas will also provide regular updates on the work and priorities of thematic working groups to ensure coherence across working groups.

8. Review

The usefulness of the group and the workings of the group will be evaluated by the group and by an external person on an annual basis, with the next review due in February 2018.

9. List of Members July 2017

ActionAid
Christian Aid
Concern Worldwide
DDCI
Gorta-SHA
Misean Cara
Oxfam
Plan International Ireland
SightSavers
Tearfund Ireland
Trocaire
World Vision
VSO Ireland

10. Officers

March 2017 – March 2018
Chair: Niamh Garvey, Trocaire
Deputy Chair: Olive Towey, Concern Worldwide